

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants :Tomoyuki NOGUCHI et al.

Group Art Unit : 2852

Appl. No. : 10/598,437

Examiner : Quana M. Grainger

Filed : August 30, 2006

Confirmation No. : 5047

For : FIXING DEVICE

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.112**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In response to the outstanding Official Action of December 26, 2008, in which a three month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on March 26, 2009, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Specification** (Title) are contained on page 2 of this paper:

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page 3 of this paper:

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper: